



Todd & Weld LLP

Elaine M. Epstein

Senior Counsel

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Elaine Epstein is a distinguished family law attorney renowned for her decades of trial experience, groundbreaking advocacy, and leadership within Massachusetts' legal community.

Since joining Todd & Weld in 1994 to co-direct the firm's Probate and Family Law practice, Elaine M. Epstein has seen the practice grow into one of the largest in Massachusetts. The firm's success is grounded in its focused team approach to evaluating and successfully resolving a broad array of complex family law issues.

A partner at the firm for three decades, and now Senior Counsel, Ms. Epstein has tried dozens of cases in the Probate & Family Court in Massachusetts and resolved hundreds more short of trial – ranging from substantial asset divisions to contested parental rights and novel issues involving the property rights of non-married cohabitants and the rights of non-biological parents. She has litigated complex jurisdictional issues and actions involving cutting-edge issues in federal and state trial and appellate courts.

Ms. Epstein has a long history of involvement in activities designed to both promote and educate attorneys, and to further public understanding of the law and ethical issues. She served on the Massachusetts Judicial Nominating Commission by appointment of the governor. Ms. Epstein is a past president of the Massachusetts Bar Association. She was one of the founders and the first president of the Massachusetts Women's Bar Association where she now serves on its Emeritus Board and that of the Women's Bar Foundation. Ms. Epstein has served by Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court appointment on the Board of Bar Overseers, the SJC's advisory committee on the Rules of Professional Conduct, and the Massachusetts IOLTA Committee. She is currently an alternate member of the Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Repeatedly selected to *Best Lawyers in America* for Family Law and to Massachusetts *Super Lawyers* for Family Law, Ms. Epstein received the Women's Bar Association's Lelia J. Robinson Award in 1999 in recognition of outstanding accomplishments and contributions to women in the legal profession. In 2025, Ms.

Epstein was the recipient of the National Association of Women Judges Florence K. Murray award, given to a non-judge for advancing opportunities and opening doors for women in the legal profession. She also received a Top Women of Law award from *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* in 2013, was inducted into its 2015 Circle of Excellence, and its Hall of Fame in 2024. In 2015, she received the Massachusetts Bar Foundation's President's Award for her contributions to the foundation over the years and was honored for her contributions to the Women's Bar Foundation in 2024. Ms. Epstein has chaired and served on numerous other bar related committees and endeavors over the years and has been a frequent lecturer and commentator.

Practice Areas

- Family Law

Experience

- Todd & Weld LLP, 1994-present
- LoDolce & Epstein, Brockton, Massachusetts, 1978-1994
- Law Office of P.J. Piscitelli, Brockton, Massachusetts, 1975-1978

Bar Admissions

- Massachusetts
- Maine
- U.S. District Court, Massachusetts
- U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

Education

- Northeastern University School of Law (J.D., 1976)
- Yale University (M.A., 1972)
- University of Pennsylvania (B.A., 1968)

Professional Activities

- President, Women's Bar Association, 1979-1980
- President, Massachusetts Bar Association, 1992-1993
- Member, Judicial Nominating Committee for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 2015-2023
- Member, Massachusetts Board of Bar Overseers, 1984-1988
- Alternate Member, Massachusetts Commission on Judicial Conduct (2025-present)
- Member, Emeritus Boards for Women's Bar Association and Women's Bar Foundation
- Supreme Judicial Court Advisory Committee on Rules of Professional Conduct, 1995-2008

- Massachusetts IOLTA Committee, 1996-2006
- *Lawyers Weekly*, Board of Editors, 1994-1998
- American Bar Association House of Delegates, 1991-1995
- Trustee, Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, 1992-1993
- Member, Probate and Family Inns of Court, American, Massachusetts, Boston, Women's, and Plymouth County Bar Associations

Publications/Presentations

- Contributor to *Breaking Barriers: The Unfinished Story of Women Lawyers and Judges in Massachusetts*, published by MCLE, Inc. (2012): Chapter 7: "Building a Legal Community: Bar Leaders."
- Contributing Editor, "Ethical Lawyering in Massachusetts" Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education 2000, 2007
- Contributing Editor, "Fiduciary Litigation in the Probate and Family Courts" Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, 2006, 2013
- Frequent lecturer for Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education, Massachusetts Bar Association, Boston Bar Association and other continuing legal education programs. Topics include: Trying Divorce Cases; Trying Domestic Relations Cases; Examining Experts; Valuing Retirement and Business Assets; Trust, Inherited and Gifted Property Issues in Divorce; International Custody Issues; Interstate and International Jurisdictional Issues; Same Sex Marriage and Divorce; Non-Traditional Families; and Ethical Issues.

Honors and Awards

- Recipient of the National Association of Women Judges' Florence K. Murray Award given to a non-judge for advancing opportunities and opening doors for women in the legal profession (2025).
- Inducted into the *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly's* 2024 Hall of Fame
- Regularly named to *Best Lawyers in America* in Family Law (2003 to present)
- Regularly named to *Massachusetts Super Lawyers* for Family Law (2004 to present)
- Recipient of 2015 President's Award, Massachusetts Bar Foundation
- Inducted into Circle of Excellence as part of 2015 Top Women in Law Awards, *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*
- Named to *Boston* magazine's Top Lawyers 2023 and 2024
- Named One of The Top Women Attorneys in Massachusetts in *Boston* magazine (2014)
- Named one of Boston's Top-Rated Lawyers by Legal Leaders based on AV Preeminent Rating by Martindale-Hubbell (2014)
- Recipient of Top Women of Law Award by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* (2013)
- Named to Top 50 Women Attorneys *Massachusetts Super Lawyers* (2004)
- Martindale-Hubbell, AV Preeminent rating (2002 to present)

- Awarded Women's Bar Association's Lelia Robinson Award in recognition of outstanding accomplishments and contributions to women in the legal profession (1999)
- Named as one of the 10 Most Powerful Women in Boston by *The Boston Globe* (1994)
- Distinguished Service and Gold Medal Awards, Plymouth County Bar Association (1992-93)

In the Community

- Trustee, Massachusetts Bar Foundation, 1994-1998 and Oliver Wendell Holmes Charter Fellow
- Sustaining Member, Women's Bar Foundation
- Fellow, American Bar Foundation
- Lawyer of the Day Program, Plymouth Probate and Family Court
- Pro bono representation in a variety of domestic relations and related cases

News & Insights

- Forty Todd & Weld Attorneys Named to 2026 Massachusetts Super Lawyers & Rising Stars List
- Thirty-Seven Todd & Weld Attorneys Named to 2025 Massachusetts Super Lawyers & Rising Stars List
- Elaine Epstein selected to Mass. Lawyers Weekly's 2024 Hall of Fame class
- Elaine Epstein offers insights in news article on whether alimony may include 'savings' award
- Nine Todd & Weld attorneys selected to Boston magazine's Top Lawyers 2023
- 17 Todd & Weld Attorneys Selected to Boston Magazine's 2022 Top Lawyers
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2022 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Nineteen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2023 Best Lawyers in America
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2021 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Sixteen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2022 Best Lawyers in America
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2020 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Elaine Epstein presents on lawyers transitioning to remote work
- Seventeen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2021 Best Lawyers in America
- Elaine Epstein provides expert commentary on appellate decision impacting divorce cases
- 31 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2019 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Fifteen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2020 Best Lawyers in America
- 30 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2018 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Fourteen Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2019 Best Lawyers in America
- Todd & Weld attorneys recognized in New England's Best Lawyers publication
- 24 Todd & Weld attorneys named 2017 Massachusetts Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
- Ten Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2018 Best Lawyers in America
- Eight Todd & Weld attorneys named to 2017 Best Lawyers in America